CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing compensation, said method comprising:

defining a time interval;

providing a stock option to an employee for a selected stock;

identifying a supported price for said selected stock, based on price data for said interval; and

offering to buy shares of said selected stock from said employee at said supported price.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

said stock option may be exercised after the end of said time interval.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

said stock option may be exercised before the end of said time interval.

4. A method for providing compensation, said method comprising:

defining a time interval;

providing an employee benefit;

providing a supported price for said employee benefit, based on price data for said interval; and

calculating a value for said employee benefit, based on said supported price.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein:

said providing an employee benefit further comprises providing a stock option; and

said providing a supported price further comprises offering to

buy shares of stock from said employee.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein:
said providing an employee benefit further comprises providing a
stock appreciation right.

7. The method of Claim 4, wherein said calculating further
comprises calculating the difference between the price of a
selected stock at the beginning of said interval, and said
supported price.

8. The method of Claim 4, wherein:
said supported price is a peak price attained by a selected stock
during said interval.

9. The method of Claim 4, wherein:
said supported price is a maximum value produced by an averaging
method.

10. The method of Claim 4, wherein:
said supported price is a multiple of the price of a selected
stock at the end of said interval.

11. A system for providing compensation, said system comprising:
means for receiving inputs, including:
stock price data, and
a formula for a supported price;
means for calculating a value for an employee benefit, based on
said inputs; and
means for providing at least one output, including said value.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said inputs include one or more inputs selected from the group consisting of:
a beginning time,
an ending time,
a number of shares,
and an option price.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for calculating further comprises means for calculating a value for a stock option.

14. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for calculating further comprises means for calculating a value for a stock appreciation right.

15. The system of Claim 11, further comprising means for creating a document containing a description of said employee benefit, based on said output.

16. The system of Claim 11, further comprising means for printing a check, based on said output.

17. The system of Claim 11, further comprising means for causing a transfer of funds, based on said output.

18. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for calculating further comprises means for calculating the difference between the price of a selected stock at the beginning of said interval, and said supported price.

19. The system of Claim 11, wherein:
said supported price is a peak price attained by said selected
stock during said interval.

20. The system of Claim 11, wherein:
said supported price is a maximum value produced by an averaging
method.

21. The system of Claim 11, wherein:
said supported price is a multiple of the price of said selected
stock at the end of said interval.

22. A computer-usable medium having computer-executable
instructions for providing compensation, said computer-executable
instructions comprising:
means for receiving inputs, including:
stock price data, and
a formula for a supported price;
means for calculating a value for an employee benefit, based on
said inputs; and
means for providing at least one output, including said value.

23. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein said inputs
include one or more inputs selected from the group consisting of:
a beginning time,
an ending time,
a number of shares,
and an option price.

24. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein said means

for calculating further comprises means for calculating a value for a stock option.

25. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein said means for calculating further comprises means for calculating a value for a stock appreciation right.

26. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, further comprising means for creating a document containing a description of said employee benefit, based on said output.

27. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, further comprising means for printing a check, based on said output.

28. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, further comprising means for causing a transfer of funds, based on said output.

29. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein said means for calculating further comprises means for calculating the difference between the price of a selected stock at the beginning of said interval, and said supported price.

30. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein:
said supported price is a peak price attained by said selected stock during said interval.

31. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein:
said supported price is a maximum value produced by an averaging method.

32. The computer-usable medium of Claim 22, wherein:

said supported price is a multiple of the price of said selected

stock at the end of said interval.